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Friday, Sept. 16, 1881.

THE CASE of the President presents some curious anomalies in medical science. We make this observation in preference to saying that the eminent surgeons who have charge of the case are displaying some queer methods of practice. The alternative is painfully apparent; and we prefer to ascribe the phenomena to a freak of nature, in the development of the case itself, rather than to accuse the eminent surgeons in charge of deliberate deception and misrepresentation. Medical science is by no means an exact one—like mathematics, for example; but in our day and age at least the physical laws of human nature have been ascertained and determined to a point which invests any considerable departure from them with a character little short of the miraculous. Among the laws of medical science perhaps the most exact is that of the relation of symptom to disease. On this point the experience of centuries has been cumulative, without material break in the thread of evidence, and it is fair to say that upon it the whole structure of modern therapeutics is based. Diagnosis is the parent of all intelligent treatment, and the infallible relation of symptom to disease is the foundation of diagnosis.

These may be termed fundamental truths of medical science, or the maxims of pathology. In any ordinary case the physician who should disregard them would be banished from respectable practice as a quack or an empiric, and his bulletins scouted as absurd by all respectable practitioners. But the President's case is not an ordinary one. On the contrary it is in every respect extraordinary; and the fact that General Garfield is President of the United States wholly alters the operation of the commonly received and recognized laws of medical science so far as his particular ailment is concerned.

We have yet to find a trained surgeon or a learned physician, except those immediately in charge of the case, who does not pronounce the President's condition, from the plainest and most unavoidable reading of the symptoms, pyemia. This may be said to be the unanimous verdict of the medical and surgical profession, not only of the United States, but of the civilized world—save and except the three particularly eminent physicians and surgeons who sign the bulletins, to wit: D. W. Bliss, Frank H. Hamilton, and D. Hayes Agnew.

This is the 16th day of September. The President was shot on the 3d day of July. From the 3d day of July until about the 11th day of August, the wound was passing through the various stages of shock, inflammation, suppuration, and granulation, the grand cause of disturbance—the bullet itself—remaining in statu quo. On or about the 11th day of August, symptoms began to manifest themselves, which, if occurring in any other patient than the President of the United States, would have been translated by any intelligent physician as evidence that febrile matter had been absorbed into the blood from inaccessible portions of the wound cavity, producing pyemia. Such was the translation given to these symptoms by the entire medical profession, save and excepting the three dominating medical minds of the corps in immediate charge of the case, to wit: Bliss, Hamilton, and Agnew. These gentlemen admitted the presence of the symptoms, but denied their pathological significance, so far as this particular case was concerned. The old maxim that the king can do no wrong was in this instance paraphrased into the new maxim that a sick President cannot be judged by the laws of pathology.

Well, on or about the 18th of August, the symptoms of pyemia aforesaid culminated in a so-called relapse, so desperate that even the three heroic surgeons in charge gave up the case for a space of twenty-four hours, the Secretary of State echoed their despair in his official dispatches designed for the information of the Courts of Europe, and everybody waited in sorrow for the final moment. But the President rallied until, on the 24th of August, his surgeons and attendants took heart enough to renew their customary promulgation of phenomenal bulletins; since which time—no other pronounced relapse having occurred—the phenomenal character of the bulletins has been sustained. But this sort of thing cannot last always. The President is either afflicted with pyemia, as all his symptoms indicate—judged according to the ordinary laws of pathology—or he is not afflicted with pyemia, as all the bulletins of Bliss, Hamilton, and Agnew indicate—judged by the new and phenomenal laws established by Bliss, Hamilton, and Agnew. Pyemia is not infallibly fatal. It is usually so; but by no means without exception. But recovery from it is invariably slow, tortuous, and fluctuating. It must be expelled from the system through a tedious and harassing succession of abscesses forming drainage for the morbid matter, and correlated by a constant formation of new and healthy blood and tissue to supply the place of that sloughed and expelled. The meaning of this is simply a question of

draft and deposit; draft through the processes of sloughing, and deposit from alimentation. If the general increase of deposit exceeds the general depletion of draft the patient will recover. The convalescence may be long and trying; but he must get well. If the draft exceeds the deposit he may die of acute suffering in some stated relapse, or he may die of dumb exhaustion at the end of a long decline; but he must die. This, in plain English, is all there is of the President's case. It is the only alternative that intelligent men, willing to look facts in the face, can entertain. The complaint we make against the three eminent surgeons in attendance is that they do not face the facts of this alternative. At all events, if they do so, they carefully refrain from taking the public into their confidence.

But the case is one in which the public is entitled to be taken into the confidence of the attending surgeons without reserve. If the President is afflicted with pyemia the public is entitled to know it. If Gen. Garfield's chances of resuming the discharge of his public duties are contingent upon his chances of recovery, wholly or in part, from the inability necessarily caused by a pyemic condition, the public is entitled to know that. And no ingenuity of substituting the phrase "septic accidents" in the bulletin reviewing the case will serve to discharge that obligation of his attendant physicians to the public. We desire his recovery, as does every individual in the United States. But we do not desire to be deceived as to his condition and prospects from time to time by the substitution of one term for another in contravention of the laws defining the relation of symptom to disease. And in this we believe we echo the general judgment of the public, whatever may be the drift of hope or sympathy.

AT THE RECENT international law conference in Cologne, David Dudley Field proposed that assassins should hereafter be denied the right of asylum among all civilized nations. The prompt and energetic approval of the conference clearly showed that recent events have had a powerful effect upon the popular feeling in all nations.

A CRITICAL authority explains that elimination and evaporation are the natural processes to which poetry is subjected by the hands of time. According to this, what a rare collection of mummies the twentieth century will have to handle in the poetic remains of the present age.

IT IS OF COURSE agriculturally correct, as well as strictly scientific, to use bones as manure; nevertheless it is startling to learn that a cargo of three hundred tons of human bones from Constantinople has just been received by an English manure manufacturer.

AS A PREVENTION and cure of railway robberies it is proposed to make the train in which the deed occurs responsible for the loss, as in case of riot. The easy-going neighbors of the lively boys might then feel interested in bringing them to justice.

BELGIUM UNDERTAKES to manufacture both her brains and her beer at the same place. Louvain contains her colleges and her breweries. In other countries it would be felt necessary to keep the students and the kegs apart.

OTHER COUNTRIES MAY be making history, but poor Switzerland is just now making geography. The fearful landlides are obliterating valleys, and changing swift running mountain torrents into lakes.

THE SHERIDAN blood will show its fire. Lord Clonduboy, eldest son of Lord Dufferin, has just swam the Bosphorus, making better time and a greater distance than either Leander or Lord Byron.

TURN ABOUT is fair play, thinks the Mississippi man, who was taken out of jail by lynchers, shot, and left for dead. He has come to, and is now amusing himself by identifying all his assailants.

"His physicians think they discover signs of a slight improvement in his symptoms," is the tautological manner in which Attorney General MacVeach puts it in his dispatch to Minister Lowell.

A HORSE and sleigh for a Peach. George Thompson, who farms the place of Dr. Lee Cummins, on the line of the Wilmington & Northern Railroad, for the purpose of disposing of his share of the peach crop to Dr. Allen for a horse and sleigh valued at \$100. After diligent search the orchard last week Saturday, two ponies were found, one of which Mr. Thompson delivered to Mr. Cummins as his share, and the other he handed over to Mr. Allen, according to agreement. It is not often that a man gives a horse and sleigh for a single peach of the mountain rose variety, as this one happened to be, or of any other kind.

THE PHILOSOPHY of a True Love. Parable of a Persian Poet. "One knocked at his beloved door, and a voice from within said: 'Who is there?' He answered: 'It is I. Then the voice said: 'This house will not hold me and thee.' And the door remained fast shut. Then went the lover into the desert and fasted and prayed in solitude. And after a year he returned and knocked again at the door. And again the voice asked: 'Who is there?' And he said: 'It is myself. And immediately the door was opened to him.'"

KILLING OF THE ORIOLES. The grand jubilee to come off at Baltimore October 10-12, is called the "Oriole Carnival," and the emblematic bird, stuffed and mounted, is to be sent to the leading hotels of the country as an advertisement. The oriole is getting so scarce about Baltimore, however, that Ohio has been drawn upon for an additional supply.

SERVED HIM RIGHT. An Illinois farmer declared that his daughter didn't care for salt. She retorted that she would be glad to stand on the same footing as his hired help. He consented, signed an agreement, and soon forgot all about it. That happened five years ago. Now the girl sues for wages, and gets a verdict of \$500.

A BETTER INVESTMENT. A Connecticut woman has given her son a large counterpane made of hair cut from her own head during ten years. This is very much better than allowing the hair to get wasted and lost in the wash every morning.

BETTER LEAVE IT ALONE. "Is not Gulliver's soul to be snatched from hell?" asks the Chicago Times. Better let Gulliver's soul be snatched from the clutches of the public mind, hell is undoubtedly the most comfortable place that Mr. G. can crawl into.

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